



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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**REPRESENTATIVES POPE AND HEBL REQUEST OPINION AND INTERVENTION FROM A.G.
SCHIMEL REGARDING PROTECTING STUDENT DATA**

MADISON –Today, State Representatives Sondy Pope (D – Cross Plains) and Gary Hebl (D – Sun Prairie) sent a letter to the State Attorney General’s office questioning the legality and ethics behind the recent controversial open-records request for student data made by pro-voucher lobby group School Choice Wisconsin.

The open records request by School Choice Wisconsin, submitted almost two weeks ago has stirred up much debate on whether student data should be subject to these requests as it could potentially compromise the safety of those children. Data that can be accessed includes a pupil's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photographs, degrees and awards received and the name of the school most recently attended by the pupil.

“It is very unsettling to know that nearly any public citizen could potentially access very personal information about any child within the public school system,” said Rep. Pope. “I hope that the Attorney General sees this potential danger to students and will make the protection of student privacy and safety a top priority.”

The Representatives also requested intervention from the Attorney General in order to protect the information of thousands of students across 30 school districts in the state.

“School Choice Wisconsin is trying to bully school districts into releasing sensitive student information,” Hebl said. “State law is clear that schools have the choice whether to release student information, and in an effort to protect student safety, most districts would understandably resist requests to share personal pupil records.”

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